



# Social District

## CITY OF BEAUFORT

Downtown Operations and Community Services

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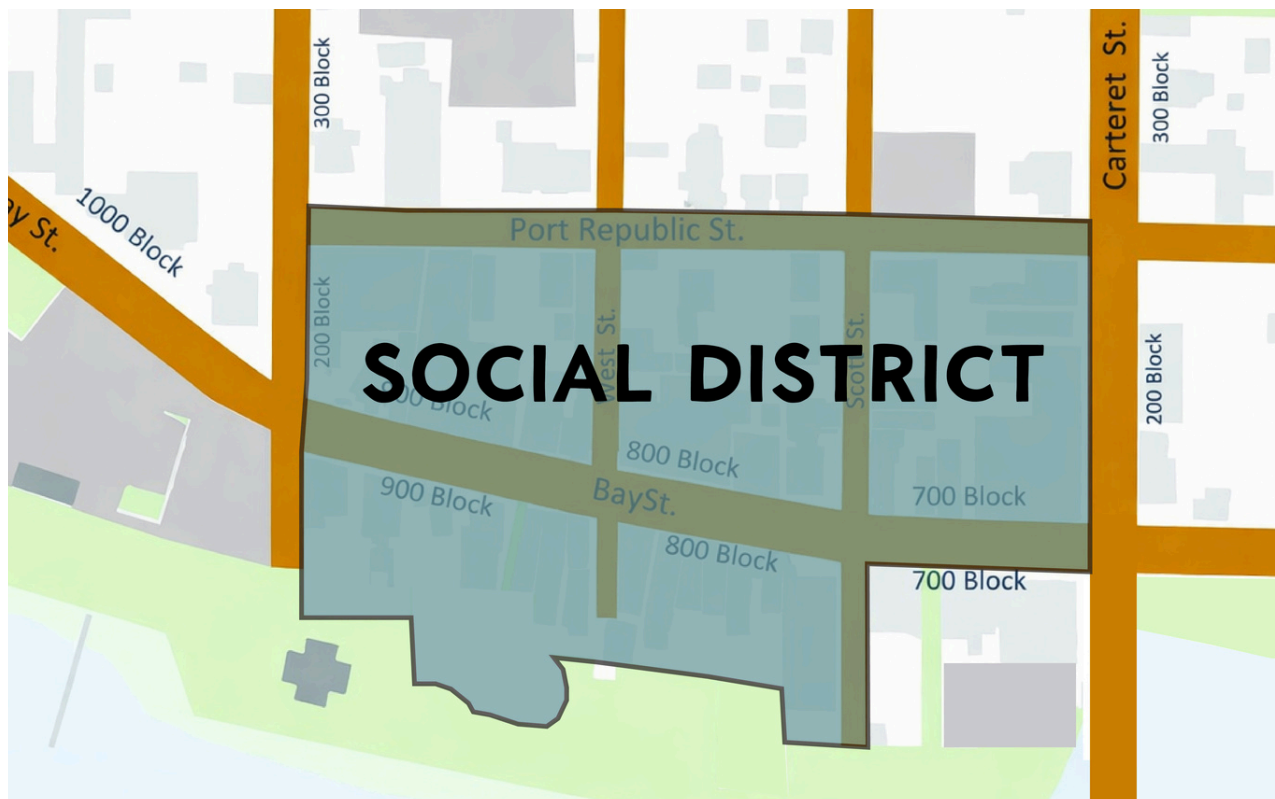
## About the Social District Pilot

The Downtown Social District will allow visitors to enjoy beer or wine while strolling within the designated district boundaries. Social districts have been implemented in communities across the United States as a way to support vibrant, walkable downtowns. Beaufort City Council has directed City staff and community partners to establish a social district within the downtown core commercial area, where beer and wine purchased from a licensed ABC permittee may be carried outdoors within the approved district boundaries.

### What is a social district?

A social district is a designated area designed to bring people together by encouraging gathering, exploration, and shared experiences in a welcoming public setting. Rather than focusing on alcohol, the emphasis is on community—through walkable streets, inviting public spaces, local shops and restaurants, arts and cultural activities, family-friendly events, and vibrant programming. A social district supports local businesses, enhances downtown vitality, and creates a place where residents and visitors can linger, connect, and enjoy the unique character of the area in a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment.

## Downtown Social District Boundaries



Here is an online map of the current social district in Beaufort.

## Days and Hours of Operation

The social district will operate Friday through Sunday from Noon to 8 p.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Noon to 8 p.m.	X	X	X	X	Noon to 8 p.m.	Noon to 8 p.m.

## Participating and Non-Participating Locations

Businesses located within the social district boundaries can submit this [form](#) if they wish to opt in or opt out of the district.



Window clings will be displayed in businesses to identify their status:

**SOLD HERE** - Purchase Beer or Wine to drink in the Social District at these establishments

**WELCOME HERE** - Beer and Wine sold within the Social District are welcomed in these non-ABC permitted establishments

**NOT PERMITTED HERE** - Drinks sold within the Social District are not allowed; Beer and Wine are not available for purchase

*\*Example window clings. Sign designs may vary*

## City Property and the Social District

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess an open container of malt beverages or unfortified wine on any property owned, occupied, or controlled by the City (including parking facilities) unless that property has been designated by the City as eligible for the consumption of alcohol under the rules of the social district. Any City properties designated as eligible will be signed accordingly.

## Social District Requirements

**The social district must meet the following requirements:**

An alcoholic beverage purchased for consumption in the Social District must:

- be consumed in the Social District
- be disposed of before exiting the Social District unless entering a business within the Social District that allows alcoholic beverages to be brought inside the business

## ABL Permittee Requirements

**A permittee located and selling alcoholic beverages within the social district must meet the following requirements under South Carolina law.**

**A permittee located and selling alcoholic beverages within the social district should meet the following City of Beaufort requirements:**

The permittee should:

- Write the date and business name on the Social District Cup

## Patron Requirements

**The possession and consumption of an alcoholic beverage in a social district is subject to all of the following requirements of South Carolina law:**

- Only alcoholic beverages purchased from a permittee located in the Social District may be possessed and consumed.
- Alcoholic beverages must:
  - only be in designated Social District containers
  - only be possessed and consumed during the days and hours set by the City

### **ATTENTION:**

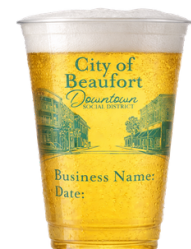
**ANY ABL PERMITTEE PARTICIPATING IN THE SOCIAL DISTRICT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR OWN ATTORNEY OR ABC STAFF TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOCIAL DISTRICT AND THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES THEY SELL THAT ARE CARRIED INTO THE DISTRICT**

## Social District Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a Social District?**
  - A Social District is a defined outdoor area where alcoholic beverages, sold by an establishment licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, may be consumed.
- **When does the Social District go into effect?**
  - The Social District Pilot program in Beaufort will go into effect April 24, 2026.
- **How will the Social District boundaries be marked?**
  - Here is a map of the current Social District. Signage and/or sidewalk decals will be posted at boundaries.



- **What are the days and hours of operation of the Social District?**
  - The Social District will operate Friday, Saturday, Sunday from Noon to 8:00 p.m.
- **How does a business opt-in to the Social District?**
  - Businesses can submit this [form](#) to identify if they want to opt-in or opt-out of the Social District.
- **How will participating businesses be marked?**
  - Window clings are displayed in businesses to identify their status in the District.
- **What cups will be used for the Social District? What is the cost to my business to use these cups?**
  - During the Social District Pilot cups will be provided to the businesses. If you have questions or need more please contact 843-379-7063.
- **What are the requirements of a Social District Cup?**
  - Container clearly identifies the permittee from which the alcoholic beverage was purchased.
  - Container clearly displays a logo or some other mark that is unique to the Social District in which it will be consumed.
  - Container is not comprised of glass.
  - Container displays, in no less than 12-point font, “Drink Responsibly - Be 21”.
  - The container shall not hold more than 16 fluid ounces.



## Social District Frequently Asked Questions

- **How will the City of Beaufort handle litter associated with the Social District?**
  - City of Beaufort staff will install additional trash cans along the perimeter of the district, directing patrons to dispose of their cups before exiting.
- **How many drinks can I purchase at one time in the Social District?**
  - A single patron cannot be sold or delivered in excess of: Not more than two alcoholic beverage drinks.
- **Can I take an alcoholic beverage in my Social District cup home with me?**
  - Cups should be disposed of in nearby trash cans prior to exiting the Social District.
  - Alcoholic beverages must be sold by a permittee located within the Social District. No personal beer, wine, or liquor can be brought into the Social District.
- **Can I drink my own alcoholic beverage, pour it in to a Social District cup, and walk around in the Social District?**
  - No, only drinks purchased from qualified businesses within the Social District are allowed. no cans, glass bottles, or outside drinks are permitted within the boundaries.
- **What do I do if I am a retailer within the Social District and do not want alcohol inside my business?**
  - All businesses located within the Social District have the option to opt-out of the district; you do not have to allow alcohol within your place of business. Signage will be provided to all businesses that choose to participate to clearly indicate that they are part of the program.
- **Can I take my alcoholic beverage into a vehicle within the Social District?**
  - No. No person shall possess an alcoholic beverage while driving a vehicle, including bicycles and scooters. An open container of any alcoholic beverage is also prohibited in the passenger area of any vehicle while on right-of-way within the Social District.
- **What happens if I leave the Social District boundaries with an alcoholic beverage?**
  - Individuals who leave the Social District in possession of alcoholic beverages can be criminally charged with the City of Beaufort for open container of alcohol and/or applicable state laws regarding the unlawful possession, consumption of alcohol.
- **How will the Social District be enforced?**
  - Law enforcement have jurisdiction over the Social District.

## Additional Questions

For more information about the Social District Pilot reach out to us at [lroper@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:lroper@cityofbeaufort.org) or call 843-379-7063.

## Feedback

Tell us what you think about Beaufort's Social District. We welcome feedback and use this in future planning.

[Social District Feedback Form](#)